

N. Y. - Peterborough, Friday;  
February 28. 1857

10-15. A M.

My Dear Friend,

I have just come hither, from the residence of Gerritt Smith, which is about a mile and a half from hence. I am now at the house of his daughter, Mrs. and am sitting in her parlour. This is the day for the commencement of the convention here, which will extend over tomorrow. While it is organized, I am remaining under this roof, and shall not go in, until the afternoon, unless much needed. I will attempt a rapid sketch of our journeyings since I wrote you from Rocktown, (or, Little Falls).

Monday 24 at 11 A. M. took the cars for Herkimer, 6 miles, and there remained till one, when we started in a waggon, under a heavy rain, for W. Winfield - a distance of 16 miles, with the roads in a dreadful state. Had the weather been fine, the ride would have been delightful, as we passed through the finest <sup>scenery</sup> ~~country~~ I have yet looked upon in the United States. Soon after leaving Herkimer, we entered a pass through the hills, which are well wooded from their summit to their base. A rapid stream flows along the bottom of the valley. The road has been cut along the bottom of the hills, and in



Some places looked dangerous, but we met with no mis-  
hap. This romantic defile is 7 or eight miles long.  
It is called, the gulf, by the people in the neighbourhood.  
I would travel any distance to see it in fine weather.  
We were five hours accomplishing our 16 miles, and  
at last alighted at the house of the friend who  
had driven us, a Mr. Thomas, who keeps a Temperance  
hotel at Winfield - has been a deacon - but is  
now a Come-outer, and a Garrisonian abolitionist -  
one of the many converts of Mrs. Foster, whose  
labours in this State 8 years ago have produced  
much fruit. I found a most comfortable room prepared  
for me, and went to it for the rest of the day.

Tuesday 25. First day of the convention. Had a  
quiet morning in my own room. In the afternoon,  
spoke nearly two hours, upon the present aspect  
of the country, in relation to slavery. Had great  
freedom of utterance. In the evening, took the  
speech of Mr. Clay, at the late Colonization meeting  
at Washington, for my text, and spoke, not only of the  
expatriation scheme, but of Mr. Clay's views, generally,  
on the Antislavery question, and his scheme of  
gradual Emancipation by natural causes. went  
home - had a basinful of Thompsonian hot mixture  
and then to bed.



Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> The Convention, to day, was held in the Village of East Winfield, in a larger house, and was well attended. In the afternoon I had a controversy with a Methodist Minister who undertook the defence of his religious body. The debate excited great interest. In the evening, made the closing speech. Went home and had apple pie and Thomsonian mixture for supper.

Thursday 27. At nine A. M. left W. Winfield for this place. Mr. Smith has sent his waggon the day before for us. These waggons are open conveyances, with three seats. We accomplished our journey in seven hours, reaching Mr. Smith's a little after seven. Our reception was most hospitable. Mr. Smith is a noble looking man. Quite American in his appearance, but the best looking American I have seen. On our arrival, Mr. Putnam was put to bed, to nurse a fever, and Mrs Foster retired, to administer to herself for the removal of inflammatory symptoms on the chest. Stephen seems to bear all things without injury. My worst complaint was fatigue. I sat till 10, conversing with Mr. Smith, and then went to bed, and rested till eight this morning. We have left Mrs Foster & Mr. Putnam behind us. You will be happy to hear that Mr. Smith's daughter, in whose house I write this, has adopted the Turkish costume - A short dress, and



full trousers, drawn just above the ankle. Mrs. H. B. Stanton has also put on the same dress - & both appear à la tunique in public. I shall anticipate with much pleasure the appearance of the lvestons at my next Anti-Slavery Meeting in Mass. - in similar drapes. If you will consult a copy of an Illustrated Byron, which contains pictures of Gulnare, the Corsair's wife, the Maid of <sup>Athens</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Bride of Abydos, &c. &c. you will be able to compound drapes that will be picturesque, and I have no doubt that pari passu with the revolution of public sentiment on the question of slavery, there will be an up-turning on the question of petticoats. The ladies reformers referred to say, that until now, they never had the use of but one arm in walking in wet weather, or in "fitting up stairs" Iron (in the matter of clothing) they are as free - as the men. Your visit in New York will enable you to prepare for a coming out that shall astonish the natives.

I must now proceed to what (to me) are more serious matters than Ladies Pantalots - to the work before me in the Convention. I am well.

I will write you again from Syracuse, for which place I shall leave on Monday, going from hence <sup>by wagon</sup> 9 miles to Oneida, & thence by rail. Your own friend, G. J.